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AUG 02 2005

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/927,255 Confirmation No.: 5544  
Applicant : Abjanic et al.  
Filed : August 10, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2151  
Examiner : Walsh, John B.  
  
Docket No. : 42390.P8759X  
Customer No. : 08791

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 2, 2005, with the three month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 2, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-referenced application and a Preliminary Amendment. Please consider the following amendments and remarks prior to examination of the above-identified RCE application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.